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considered bordered. As this definition is sometimes difficult of application, he overcomes this by placing some families with small and imperfectly developed borders in the list with those containing only simple pores.

In this way it happens that the tables given by this author do not always agree with those of the present paper. For example, *Betula* and *Alnus* he gives among the bordered pored,although explaining that the border is here generally smaller than the "spalt." Also the pores of the libriform of *Fraxinus* he says possess " deutliche" borders, although smaller than the "spalt." Several other instances occur where the different standards taken to decide what a border is, cause a difference in the classification.

This indicates, however, no real difference in opinion, as the definition is simply arbitrary in both cases, and in instances like *Betula* and *Alnus*, the test of the angle between the tube and the border-opening was extremely difficult of application. Certain species of *Alnus* were examined where, had the decision rested on single cases alone, these must have been included in bordered-pored libriform.

It is hardly necessary to add in conclusion that the probability of the hypothesis assumed in the foregoing pages would be greatly strengthened by experiments proving that water, when forced by artificial means though a piece of wood consisting of bordered-pored libriform, passed through more readily than through wood containing only simple-pored libriform. Several experiments of this kind were tried at different times in the laboratory of Prof. Schwendener of Berlin, and also in that of Prof. Cramer at Zürich, the results of which were partially successful. It is hoped that these results may be verified and the experiments extended so far as to render them of sufficient interest for future publication.

Time of Fruiting of Buxbaumia aphylla.

In December of 1884 I noticed two patches of this interesting moss growing near Hamden Swamp, in the vicinity of New Haven, Conn.

My attention was first attracted by the bleached empty capsules of the preceding year's growth. One patch was situated near a decayed stump, the other at the foot of an oak. The soil was comparatively dry, the spots where the moss grew being elevated several feet above the level of the adjoining swamp.

When first observed, the growing capsules were green, small, and quite soft to the touch. I visited the locality at intervals of about two weeks, but found little change in the condition of the capsules until the beginning of spring, when they became swollen and began to assume a pretty purplish hue.

On the 19th of April they appeared to be perfectly developed.

W. E. SAFFORD.

Examination of Pine-Seed Wings.

In connection with the recent discussion as to the identity or non-identity of *Pinus edulis* and *P. monophylla*, I would suggest a microscopic examination of the cellular structure of the wings of the seed as a valuable means of specific differentiation. These cells, no less by their general shape than by their contour, are so characteristic, that by them alone the species to which a given specimen belongs can be determined with tolerable certainty. Such at least is the result of my observation with a limited number of species. Further investigation is necessary to decide as to its general applicability.

The examination is quite easy, as the wings are translucent, and a low power, from 80 to 100 diameters, suffices.

G. N. BEST.

Insular Floras.

BY JOHN H. REDFIELD.

The outer islands lying off the coast of Maine have a flora of a triple character. The wooded portions have the trees of the mainland, mostly spruces, firs and birches, and under their shelter grow the characteristic smaller plants of the northern flora, and where the ground is swampy, a great variety of species find a home. But the cleared portions, which have been cultivated or used for sheep pastures, are often extensive, and these harbor a great number of species which may be called " tramps "—sometimes as unwelcome as human tramps—while, lastly, the rocky coasts and stony beaches give a legitimate place to many strictly maritime species. Some of these islands have an extensive area, and furnish a flora too large to enumerate here. In the BULLETIN